Export of Unani Medicines

1283. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: what is the value of Unani Medicines exported to foreign countries during the period 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The value of Ayurvedic & Unani Medicines exported from India during the period 1992-93 is Rs. 40.28 crores. Export figures of Unani medicines are not maintained separately.

(Source: CHEMEXCIL, Bombay).

Export of Cigarettes

1284. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cigarettes has increased during the last three years; if so, the details; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide tax relief to this industry and if so, to what extent; and if not, what steps Government propose to take to boost its export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Details of the cigarette exports during the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	4482	36.59
1991-92	1753	16.11
1992-93	2644	39.72

(b) In view of the ensuing budget, it is not possible to indicates the views of the Government on tax relief. The steps taken to boost exports include.

— Sending trade delegations to identified markets of FCV tobacco and products.

— Participation in international exhibitions.

— Aggressive publicity in overseas markets.

— Pursuing with Governments through Joint committee meeting etc. to import Indian tobacco products.

— Promoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes and cut tobacco.

— Permitting foreign investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes and value added products.

— Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items wth a view to enable them to undertake product development.

— Undertaking packaging development for products like bidis, hookah tobacco paste with the help of Indian Institute of Packaging.

Frequent Changes and Amendment in Import-Export Policy

1285. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent changes and amendments in the Export-Import Policy have made exporters a confused lot;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last 15 months, nearly 150 public notices and six notifications have been issued for amendments to policies;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that an announcement was made in April, 1993 that 100 percent EOU—scheme would be extended—

to horticulture, sericulture, pisiculture, floriculture, poultry farming, animal husbandry and computer software; and

(e) if so, whether this scheme has been fully implemented by Government; if not, what are the grey areas with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Export and Import Policy is kept constantly under review and Public Notices and Notifications are required to be issued in public interest to further streamline the procedures related thereto.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Export Oriented Unit (EOU) Scheme has been extended to units engaged in manufacture of agriculture, acquaculture, animal husbandry, floriculture, horticulture, pisciculture poultry, sericulture, etc. w.e.f. 1-3-1993 vide para 93 of the Export-Import Policy, 1992—97. Further, Export Oriented Units in agriculture acquaculture, animal husbandry floriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, poultry, culture, etc. have been made eligible to sell upto 50% if their production in volue terms, subject to fulfilment of minimum value addition and export obligation specified in the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97, as amended.

Trade Agreements with Foreign Countries

1286. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which Government have signed trade agreements during the current financial year indicating the terms and conditions laid down thereof;

(b) the details of items exported/imported (country-wise) indicating the value in foreign exchange as per the trade agreements with these countries during the current financial year upto 30th September, 1993 as compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(c) what specific efforts are being made by Government to boost the country's export to these countries keeping in view the changing global trend in economic/trade cooperation amongst European Countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government has signed trade agreements with 7 countries as shown below:

Country	Date
Govt. of Sultanate of Oman	June, 1993
Lithuania . . .	2-7-1993
Latvia	10-9-93
Estonia	15-10-93
Belarus	14-5-93
Uzbekistan . . .	24-5-93
Slovak Republic . .	14-5-93
Slovenia	7-12-93

These Agreements envisage setting up of Joint Commission Jonit Ventures and make provision for both parties to accord to each other the Most Favoured Nation Treatment with regard to their economic, commercial & technical relation. Payment for goods traded shall be in freely convertible currencies.

(b) A detailed statement showing figures upto August 93 is annexed. (*See* below).

(c) Discussion at Govt. to Govt. level, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, encouragement to Indian companies to establish direct contact with their counterparts in those countries etc. are some of the measures being taken to boost our exports.